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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,939	06/28/2001	Tetsuya Itani	29288.1600	6295

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HUY THANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/893,939	ITANI, TETSUYA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	HUY T. NGUYEN	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/21/02, 6/24/04.</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 12-21 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

It is noted that the apparatus shown by Figs. 12-21 is a conventional apparatus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

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under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1- 3,6 ,7-8 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kori et al (EP 0716545 A2) in view of Hirano et al (EP 0837601 A2).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Kori discloses a video signal reproduction apparatus for receiving an information signal including a video signal and a determination signal indicating a type of the video signal, and reproducing the video signal included in the information signal, comprising:

an aspect ratio conversion section for converting an aspect ratio of a reproduced video signal wherein the aspect ratio conversion section converts the aspect ratio of the video signal based on the determination signal indicating the type of the video signal and monitor information indicating a type of the progressive scan video monitor.

Kori fails to teach a conversion for conversion a video signal to a progressive video signal .

Hirano teaches a conversion means for converting a video signal to a progressive video signal and converting the progressive video signal to as aspect ratio of a monitor (column 1, line 52 to column 2, line 55,column 8, lines 21- 46, Figs 1,16,19) .

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kori with Hirano by using a progressive converting means as taught by Hirano with the apparatus of Kori for converting a receiving input video signal to a progressive scan video signal thereby enhancing the capacity of the apparatus of Kori in converting the video signals of different types to different aspect ratios.

Regarding claim 2, Kori as modified with Hirano further teaches the video signal reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the aspect ratio conversion section converts the aspect ratio of the progressive scan video signal so that the progressive scan video signal is displayed on the progressive scan video monitor at a correct aspect ratio (Kori column 5, lines 20-60).

Regarding claim 3, Kori further teaches the video signal reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein: the aspect ratio includes first and second aspect ratios;

the video signal includes a video signal representing a first image having the first aspect ratio and a second image having the second aspect ratio;

the progressive scan video monitor includes a first monitor having the first aspect ratio and a second monitor having the second aspect ratio; and

the aspect ratio conversion section converts the aspect ratio of the progressive scan video signal when the determination signal indicates the first image as having the first aspect ratio and the monitor information indicates the second monitor as having the second aspect ratio (Kori column 5, lines 20-50, column 9, lines 30-68).

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Regarding claim 6, Kori further teaches 6 the wherein the aspect ratio conversion section renders a blank portion resulting from the compression of the full image in the horizontal direction as a black image (Fig. 17,18).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, , Kori as modified with Hirano further teaches the video signal reproduction apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:
the second monitor having the second aspect ratio extends the letterbox image having the first aspect ratio in a horizontal direction by a factor of (M/N) where M and N are integers and $M > N$; and
the aspect ratio conversion section extends the letterbox image in a vertical direction by a factor of (M/N) so that the letterbox image having the first aspect ratio is displayed on the second monitor having the second aspect ratio at a correct aspect ratio (See Kori, column 10, lines 49-68, Figs. 12-14).

Regarding claim 10, Kori teaches the second aspect ratio is 16:9 (column 9, lines 30-60).

Regarding claim 12, Kori as modified with Hirano further teaches the video signal reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conversion section includes:
an interlaced scan video signal reproduction section for reproducing the video signal as an interlaced scan video signal having 60 fields per second;
an interlaced scanned aspect ratio conversion section for converting an aspect ratio of the interlaced scan video signal reproduced by the interlaced scan video signal reproduction section; and

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a progressive scan video signal conversion section for converting the interlaced scan video signal, the aspect ratio of the interlaced scan video signal being converted by the interlaced scan video signal reproduction section, into the progressive scan video signal (see Hirano (column 1, line 52 to column 2, line 55, column 8, lines 21- 46, Figs 1, 6, 16, 19).

Regarding claim 13, Kori as modified with Hirano further teaches the video signal reproduction apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the conversion section further includes: an interlaced scan designating section for designating interlaced scan monitor information indicating a type of the interlaced scan video monitor; and an interlaced scan control circuit for controlling the interlaced scan aspect ratio conversion section based on the determination signal and the interlaced scan monitor information designated by the interlaced scan designating section (See Kori column 9, lines 30-50, Hirano column 1, line 52 to column 2, line 55, column 8, lines 21- 46, Figs 1, 16, 19).

5. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kori et al (EP 0716545 A2) in view of Hirano et al (EP 0837601 A2) as applied to claims 1 and 3 , further in view of Fukuoka et al (5,673,086).

Kori as modified with Hirano fails to teaches compressing the image in a horizontal direction in performing aspect ratio conversion .

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Fukuoka teaches a apparatus having a compressing means for compressing image signal in a horizontal direction in performing a aspect ratio conversion (column 7, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kori as modified with Hirano with Fukuoka by using a compressing means as taught by Fukuoka with the apparatus of Kori for compressing the image signal in a horizontal direction thereby preventing a distortion of the image on the monitor.

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kori et al (EP 0716545 A2) in view of Hirano et al (EP 0837601 A2) as applied to claims 3 and 7, further in view of Monta et al (5,621,469).

Regarding claim 9, Kori as modified with Hirano fails to teach that the letterbox image includes a subtitle displayed at an upper or lower portion of the letterbox image; and the aspect ratio conversion section shifts the letterbox image represented by the progressive scan video signal so that the subtitle is prevented from disappearing from the second monitor having the second aspect ratio included in the progressive scan video monitor when the letterbox image is extended in the vertical direction.

Monta teaches a conversion means for converting the subtitle so that the subtitle can be appeared on a second monitor having a second aspect ratio (Abstract, column 4, lines 5-46).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kori as modified with Hirano with Monta by using a conversion means as taught by Monta with the apparatus of Kori for converting the subtitle of first aspect ratio to a second aspect ratio thereby improving quality of the appearance of the subtitle of the image.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7378. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM -6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on (571) 272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

H.N

HUY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER